



Save Barton Creek Association

Angela Richter  
Executive Director

  
Save Barton Creek  
Association



# Mission

Through education, outreach, and advocacy, Save Barton Creek Association is dedicated to protecting Barton Springs, the Onion and Barton Creek watersheds, and the Barton Springs Edwards Aquifer. In addition, we support water quality protection in all Austin and Central Texas creeks.





# Education

## Adopt-a-Creek Conservation



## Meetups and Guided Hikes



"Save Barton Creek Crew" on [meetup.com](https://www.meetup.com/savebartoncreekcrew/).





# Creek Crew Happy Hours

**Violet Crown Trail Update**, Clark Hancock,  
SBCA Board President

**Shoal Creek Conservancy and Waller Creek  
Conservancy** Current Projects

**Dye Tracing in Onion Creek**, St. Edward's  
Research Group

**Water Forward Plan**, Marisa Flores  
Gonzalez and Robert Mace

**Blue Index Project**, Kevin Jeffery

**Watershed Protection Requirements**, Matt  
Hollon, City of Austin's Watershed  
Protection Department

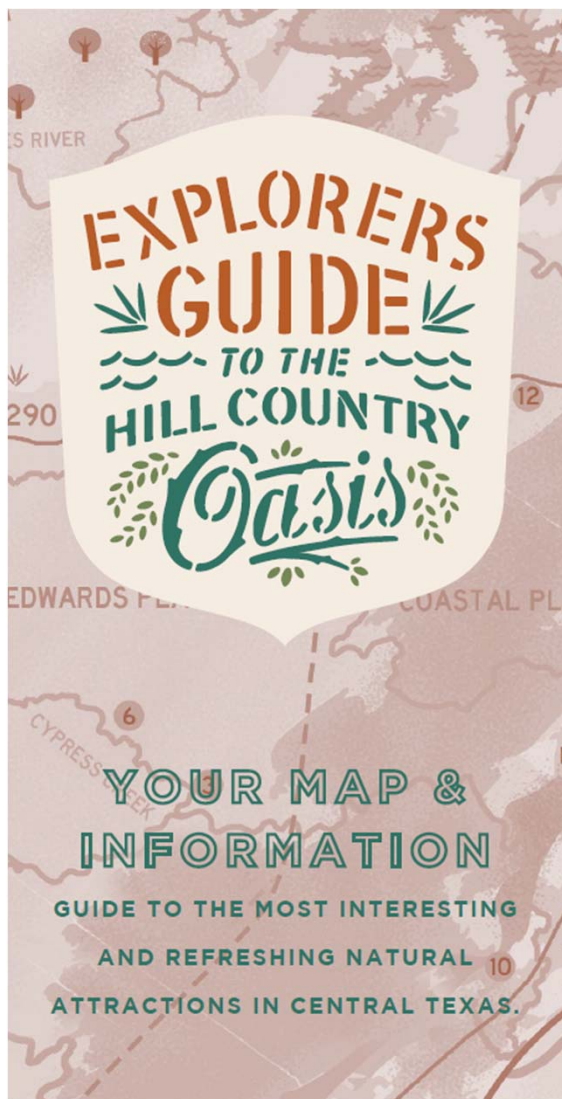
**Barton Springs Conservancy Projects**  
including the historic bathhouse renovation

**No Dumping Sewage Campaign**, Angela  
Richter, SBCA Executive Director

**Project Connect** and the future of high-  
capacity transportation in Austin







# BARTON SPRINGS

**POOL** 2201 Barton Springs Rd, Austin, TX



Eliza spring is contained in an amphitheater originally built in 1903 by Andrew Zilker, and now supports the greatest numbers of the Barton Springs salamander. A renovation in 2017 re-established flow to the pool creating an aquatic garden and improving salamander habitat.



Old Mill Spring, or Sunken Garden, is closed to the public but was formerly the site of a grist mill, Paggi's Mill, in the 1800s.

**Hours:** Daily 5 AM-10 PM, closed Thursdays 9AM - 7PM | **Fees:** Admission rates range from \$2 (child resident) to \$9 (adult non-resident) | **Parking:** \$5 per car | **Rules:** No pets. No coolers, ice chests, or thermal bags. No food. No smoking. No glass. No alcohol. No frisbees, footballs, soccer balls or other hard balls. Drinks must be in a plastic resealable container with a twist-top lid.

## Explore's Checklist

1. Jump in the cold spring-fed water.
2. Snorkle to see fish and aquatic plants.
3. Spot a salamander in the "Splash into the Edwards Aquifer" exhibit in the Sheffield Education Center. The Center is named after Beverly Sheffield, the first Director of the Austin Recreation Department, who after retirement swam 2,820 miles in Barton Springs Pool.
4. Find the Spanish Mission Monument; read the quotes at "Philosopher's Rock"

Barton Springs Pool, Austin's iconic swimming hole, is fed by water flowing from an underground aquifer. Water travels through the Barton Springs segment of the Edwards Aquifer through caves and crevices, to come out at four Springs. Only days before, this water may have been rain, many miles away. Native Americans considered the Barton Springs area to be a sacred healing ground. The springs were later named after William "Uncle Billy" Barton, who began living on the land in 1837.

## SPRINGS FOR ALL

In 1960, some Austin teenagers and young adults took a bold step by jumping into the waters of Barton Springs. Working with other students, Joan Means, an Austin High senior began "swim-ins" after being told that she and her fellow black classmates would not be allowed to attend their senior class picnic at Barton Springs. "Those swim-ins at Barton Springs and other pools began the civil rights movement in Austin." — Joan Means Klabale

## BARTON SPRINGS SALAMANDERS

Did you know you're swimming with salamanders? Chances are rare that you will spot one. The Barton Springs salamander measures only 3 inches long and hides in sand and gravel at the bottom of the pool where chilly water flows up from the Edwards Aquifer. The Barton Springs salamander can be found nowhere else in the world. In 1997, it was placed on the Endangered Species list, making these waters federally protected.



The endangered Austin Blind Salamander makes its home here as well and has adapted to life even deeper within the aquifer. Sensitive to pollution, both types of salamanders act as indicator species for water quality and remind us of the extremely fragile nature of the aquifer.



# EXPLORATION SITES AND INFO

## 1 BARTON CREEK GREENBELT

SWIMMING NATURE WATCHING ROCK CLIMBING MOUNTAIN BIKING HIKING  
AUSTIN PARKS & REC. DEPT. | [AUSTINPARKS.ORG/BARTON-CREEK-GREENBELT](http://AUSTINPARKS.ORG/BARTON-CREEK-GREENBELT)

## 2 BARTON SPRINGS POOL

SWIMMING DIVING SUNBATHING  
AUSTIN PARKS & REC. DEPT.  
[AUSTINTEXAS.GOV/DEPARTMENT/BARTON-SPRINGS-POOL](http://AUSTINTEXAS.GOV/DEPARTMENT/BARTON-SPRINGS-POOL)

## 3 BLUE HOLE

SWIMMING PICNIC AREAS PLAYSCAPE BASKETBALL & VOLLEYBALL  
CITY OF WIMBERLEY | [CITYOFWIMBERLEY.COM](http://CITYOFWIMBERLEY.COM)

## 4 COMAL SPRINGS & LANDA PARK

DIVING/SWIMMING TUBING PICNIC AREAS PLAYSCAPE CANOEING/KAYAKING  
NEW BRAUNFELS PARKS & REC.  
[PLAYINNEWBRAUNFELS.COM/SPLASH/COMAL-RIVER](http://PLAYINNEWBRAUNFELS.COM/SPLASH/COMAL-RIVER)

## 5 GOAT CAVE KARST PRESERVE

HIKING/TOURS NATURE WATCHING  
AUSTIN PARKS & REC. DEPT.  
[NATUREROCKSAUSTIN.ORG/GREENSPACE/GOAT-CAVE-KARST-NATURE-PRESERVE](http://NATUREROCKSAUSTIN.ORG/GREENSPACE/GOAT-CAVE-KARST-NATURE-PRESERVE)

## 6 JACOB'S WELL NATURAL AREA

HIKING SWIMMING NATURE WATCHING CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA GEOCACHING  
HAYS COUNTY PARKS DEPT. | [WWW.CO.HAYS.TX.US/JWNA.ASPX](http://WWW.CO.HAYS.TX.US/JWNA.ASPX)

## 7 LADY BIRD JOHNSON WILDFLOWER CENTER

TRAILS/TOURS NATURE WATCHING  
LADY BIRD JOHNSON WILDFLOWER CENTER | [WILDFLOWER.ORG](http://WILDFLOWER.ORG)

## 8 LADY BIRD LAKE

BIKING HIKING RUNNING CANOEING/KAYAKING FISHING  
AUSTIN PARKS & REC. DEPT. | [AUSTINTEXAS.GOV/PAGE/LADY-BIRD-LAKE](http://AUSTINTEXAS.GOV/PAGE/LADY-BIRD-LAKE)

## 9 MCKINNEY FALLS STATE PARK

SWIMMING BOULDERING PICNIC AREAS CAMPING HIKING BIKING  
TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE | [TPWD.TEXAS.GOV/STATE-PARKS/MCKINNEY-FALLS](http://TPWD.TEXAS.GOV/STATE-PARKS/MCKINNEY-FALLS)

## 10 SPRING LAKE AT THE MEADOWS CENTER

GLASS BOTTOM BOAT TOURS EDUCATION CENTER PADDLING TOURS  
MEADOWS CENTER FOR WATER & THE ENVIRONMENT  
[MEADOWSCENTER.TXSTATE.EDU](http://MEADOWSCENTER.TXSTATE.EDU)

## 11 MOUNT BONNELL

HIKING VIEWS  
AUSTIN PARKS & REC. DEPT.  
[AUSTINTEXAS.GOV/DEPARTMENT/MOUNT-BONNELL](http://AUSTINTEXAS.GOV/DEPARTMENT/MOUNT-BONNELL)

## 12 RED BUD ISLE AND LCRA REDBUD CENTER

HIKING BIKING  
AUSTIN PARKS & REC. DEPT., LOWER COLORADO RIVER AUTHORITY  
[AUSTINPARKS.ORG/RED-BUD-ISLE](http://AUSTINPARKS.ORG/RED-BUD-ISLE) OR [WWW.LCRA.ORG](http://WWW.LCRA.ORG)

## 13 SLAUGHTER CREEK TRAIL

HIKING MOUNTAIN BIKING NATURE WATCHING HORSEBACK RIDING  
WATER QUALITY PROTECTION LANDS PGM, WILDLANDS DIV., CITY OF AUSTIN  
[FACEBOOK.COM/PG/SLAUGHTERCREEKTRAIL](http://FACEBOOK.COM/PG/SLAUGHTERCREEKTRAIL)

## 14 VIOLET CROWN TRAIL

SWIMMING NATURE WATCHING BIKING HIKING  
HILL COUNTRY CONSERVANCY | [VIOLETCROWNTAIL.COM](http://VIOLETCROWNTAIL.COM)

## 15 WILD BASIN WILDERNESS PRESERVE

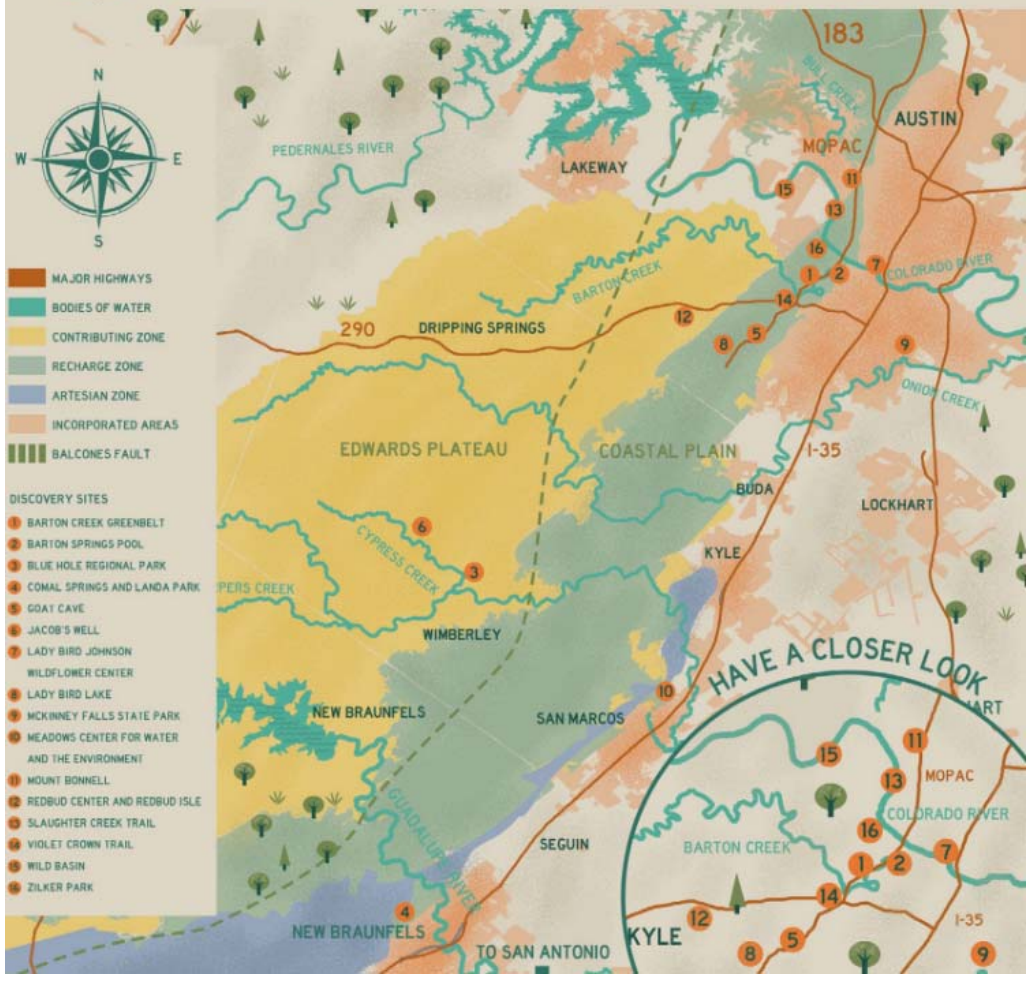
HIKING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS  
TRAVIS COUNTY PARKS | [PARKS.TRAVISCOUNTYTX.GOV/PARKS/WILD-BASIN](http://PARKS.TRAVISCOUNTYTX.GOV/PARKS/WILD-BASIN)

## 16 ZILKER PARK

PICNIC AREAS SPORTS FIELDS BIKING HIKING EDUCATION CENTERS MUSIC FESTIVAL  
AUSTIN PARKS & REC. DEPT. | [ZILKERPARK.ORG](http://ZILKERPARK.ORG)



# DISCOVERY MAP







*There's a  
better way!*

The **No Dumping Sewage** Campaign is a community effort to save our Hill Country waterways and advocate for alternatives to direct discharge.

Join us!

4335 Signatures



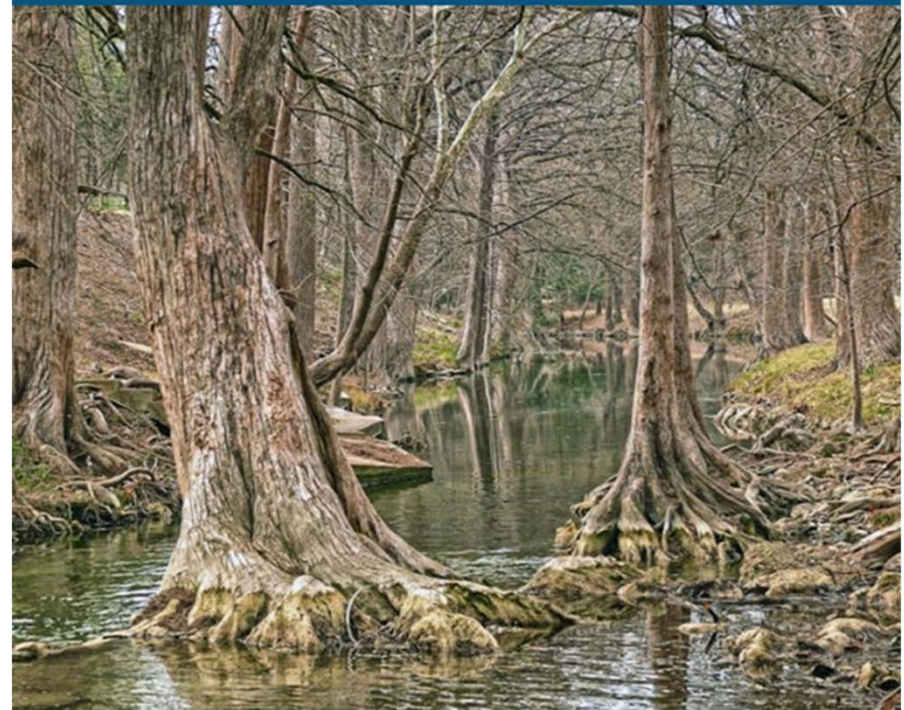
87%

Goal: 5000

## Preferred Wastewater Systems for the Texas Hill Country and Over the Edwards Aquifer: *Economic and Environmental Considerations*

The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment  
Report: 2019-03

March 2019



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THE MEADOWS CENTER  
FOR WATER AND THE ENVIRONMENT  
TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY



# No Dumping Sewage Campaign

## By the numbers:

**8+** Direct Discharge Permit Applications in the Hill Country

**1** Direct Discharge Permit Application into a Tributary of Barton Creek

**2** Direct Discharge Permits/Applications in Barton Springs Edwards Aquifer

**10** Environmental Organizations Signed the No Dumping Sewage Petition

**1,884** Citizens contacted at home about the sewage problem by NDS Partner Clean Water Action

**4,350** Individual Petition Signers

**6** press releases/advisories put out by SBCA related to discharge permits

**9+** news outlets ran at least one story about wastewater pollution in Central Texas in 2018

**1** Settlement agreement reached with the City of Dripping Springs





## HAVE YOU HEARD?

# SEWAGE POLLUTION THREATENS BARTON CREEK

## THE FACTS

- A direct discharge permit plans to **dump 92,000 gallons/day of treated sewage** into the Long Branch tributary of Barton Creek.
- Nutrients from the wastewater **will increase algae growth.**
- Excess algae **will ruin the appearance, recreational value, wildlife habitat, and water quality of Barton Creek.**

## TAKE ACTION

1 Send a comment to Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

- Go to: <http://www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/>
- Enter Permit NO. WQ0015594001
- Fill out the form and express your comments and concerns

2 Sign the No Dumping Sewage petition to get updates.  
([nodumpingsewage.org](http://nodumpingsewage.org))

Questions? [SBCA@savebartoncreek.org](mailto:SBCA@savebartoncreek.org)

  
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# Long Branch Direct Discharge Permit



# Oak Hill Parkway (290 at the Y)



Before



After

## Why we're involved

- 74 acres of new impervious cover in the recharge and contributing zones of the Barton Springs Edwards Aquifer
- Impacts Williamson Creek.
- Proposes 2.65 miles or 1,968,000 cu yards of excavation over and adjacent to environmentally sensitive features
- Take trees and mature riparian habitats.



# Oak Hill Parkway

Signatories to 7/9/19 Letter to TxDOT expressing concerns about the plan.



Patrick Murphy, Chair  
**Austin Group of the Sierra Club**

David Foster, State Director  
**Clean Water Action**

Carol Cespedes  
**Fix 290**

Steve Barnick, President  
**Friends of Barton Springs Pool**

Dr. Carlos Torres-Verdin, President  
**Friendship Alliance**

Angela Richter, Executive Director  
**Save Barton Creek Association**

Alan Watts  
**Save Oak Hill**

Bill Bunch, Executive Director  
**Save Our Springs Alliance**

Girard Kinney  
**Scenic Austin**

Tony Catania, President  
**Scenic Brook Neighborhood Association**

Cindy Dietz, President  
**South Windmill Run Neighborhood Association**

Cynthia Wilcox, Board President  
**Travis Country Community Service Association**

Heyden Black Walker  
**Walk Austin**

Sinclair Black  
**Reconnect Austin**

# More Advocacy

- Land Development Code
- Water Forward Implementation
- Permian Highway Pipeline
- Barton Creek Tubing Safety





# Contact Information

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[angela@savebartoncreek.org](mailto:angela@savebartoncreek.org)

[www.savebartoncreek.org](http://www.savebartoncreek.org)

